Remarks

On page 3 of the response the Examiner indicates in paragraph 5 that claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103. It is assumed that this is an editorial error in that on the office action summary the Examiner indicates that claim 4 is not rejected, but rather is objected to and on page 4 of the official action in paragraph 7 the Examiner indicates why claim 4 is patentable over the prior art. As such, the Applicant is assuming, for the purposes of this communication, that the Examiner only intended to reject claims 1-3 on prior art grounds.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation from claim 4 slightly rewritten to refer to a "negative temperature coefficient"as opposed to a "negative temperature constant". It is well known, in the art that thermistors such as those discussed in the paragraph bridging pages 5 and 6 of the application can exhibit a negative temperature coefficient whereby the thermistors decreases in resistance as its body temperature increases. Please see the accompanying web page from Alpha Sensors, Inc. which discusses negative temperature coefficient thermistors. The terminology used in the specification has likewise been corrected.

The specification has also been amended to correct these changes as well as to correct the spelling of the word "switch" which the Examiner noted in paragraph 2 of the recent official action.

Turning now to paragraph 3 of the official action, the Examiner objected to claims 5, 9, and 11-13 because of certain informalities. As the Examiner will note be reference to the amendments made herein, the objections noted by the Examiner have been attended to.

With respect to the prior art rejections of claims 1-3, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation of claim 4 (subject to making the editorial correction discussed above), thereby rendering claim 1 allowable over the cited art.

In a similar fashion, claim 5 has been rewritten as an independent claim and since claim 5 was indicated as being allowable, it should now be in condition for formal allowance. Claims 7 and 8, which heretofore depended from claim 4, have been rewritten to depend from claim 1.

Original claim 6 was indicated as being allowable and therefore a new claim 14 is being presented which is intended to correspond to original claim 6.

Claims 9 and 11-13 have been amended to address the objections noted by the Examiner in the official action. It is noted that these clarifying amendments do not affect the scope of claim 9.

It is believed, with the filing of this response, that this application should now be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Post Office with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents POB 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

September 30,2003

(Date of Deposit)

Corinda Humphrey

(Name of Person Signing)

Corinda Humphrey

(Signature)

September 30, 2003

(Date)

Respectfully submitted,

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ALPHA SENSORS, INC.

Alpha Negative Temperature Coefficient (NTC) Thermistors

Site Navigation:

Thermistor Definition

The word thermistor is derived from its description: "**therm**ally sensitive res**istor**." Thermistors are passive semiconductors which produce resistance values dependent on temperature.

A Negative Temperature Coefficient (NTC) thermistor decreases in resistance as its body temperature increases. In fact, NTC thermistors exhibit two characteristics which make them extremely useful in a variety of applications. Their change in resistance is predictable and it is relatively large per degree change in temperature.

Alpha Manufacturing

Alpha manufactures NTC chip thermistors and related assemblies. This is a two step process of chip manufacturing and thermistor assembly. To manufacture chips, Alpha processes metal oxide powders into ceramic sheets. These sheets a re metalized with silver to allow for electrical contact. After metalization, the ceramic sheets are diced into chips. Each chip is tested to meet Alpha's superior quality standard s .